

Ol.—in this area a species very rare to me up to that time. Among them was a single *O. sulcatus* F., a much larger species quite common here. In contrast, the vertical faces of the wall on both sides, ill-lit or in deep shadow, had no weevils on them as far as I could see, and the numbers about the top thinned out rapidly to zero well away from the lamp; indicating that the light from it was indeed the real attraction. All or most had probably ascended the wall on its inner side which bounds some plain grass-land, since on its outer side the pavement comes right up to the foot of the wall with only a few tufts of grass, etc., at its very edge. Among the beetles on the wall a number of earwigs (*Forficula auricularia* L.) were interspersed—this too familiar insect also being fond of artificial light (and, I might add, present here this season in such prodigious quantity as to constitute a veritable plague). The night was windless and overcast.

Casual specimens of *Otiorhynchus* of various species are not seldom found indoors during the summer at least. Of these, some may be brought in with plant roots or garden soil, but I suspect that others gain access by climbing house walls at night and entering windows when open with a bright light showing. *O. rugosostriatus* Goeze has repeatedly appeared indoors at sundry times and places—much oftener than mere chance could account for\*—and *O. sulcatus* less frequently, though a far commoner species.

For a London suburb, the genus is quite respectably represented in this district. Besides *sulcatus* and *ligneus* we have *rugosostriatus*, *singularis* L. (in part diurnal), *ovatus* L., and *raucus* F.—the latter being the rarest with one example hitherto, and all the others but *ligneus* occurring in my small garden. — A. A. ALLEN, 49 Montcalm Road, Charlton, London, SE7 8QG.

\* See, for instance, J. M. Chalmers-Hunt, 1960, *Ent. Rec.*, 72: 72. Just lately this weevil has twice dropped out of roses I had brought in from the garden—doubtless a source of some of the specimens found indoors.

THE STATUS OF THE PURPLE EMPEROR (*APATURA IRIS* LINN.) IN THE ISLE OF WIGHT. — Goater (*The Butterflies and Moths of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight*, 1974) gives the exact date for only one Purple Emperor on the island, a female in Parkhurst Forest on 2nd August, 1890. From Morey (*A Guide to the Natural History of the Isle of Wight*, 1909) he quotes four further localities but without specific data, and adds that he has no recent record.

Since this species has been extending its range on the mainland for several years, the possibility that it may breed on the island becomes ever more likely, even if it has not done so hitherto. It seems worth while, therefore, to publish recent sightings, if only to alert visiting lepidopterists to the existence of the problem.

Mr. Andy Keay, Warden of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Naturalists' Trust Reserve at Stag Copse, near Newport,

reports that he and two young people watched a specimen of *A. iris* sunning itself on a bramble leaf in the copse at 0840 hrs. BST on 16th July, 1977. Mr. Keay made four further visits in the ensuing week, but without success.

As a result of his report, I contacted Mr. O. H. Frazer of Mottistone Mill, Brighstone, who tells me that he and his wife saw a Purple Emperor near their home at 1600 hrs. BST on 28th June, 1952. On each occasion the observer mentions being struck by the purple sheen on the insect, thus identifying it as a male.

I have visited both these localities, and although neither are ideal breeding grounds for *A. iris*, this seems of little significance since distances on the island are so small, and each is in close proximity to an area which looks quite suitable. Mr. Frazer tells me that a diligent search was made for larvae in Parkhurst Forest in 1954 and 1955 by Mr. J. Lobb, without success; but it does seem likely that the pleasure of adding the Purple Emperor to the Isle of Wight list of breeding butterflies is there for the taking by a lepidopterist with the requisite skill, diligence and luck. — D. W. H. FFENNELL, Martyr Worthy Place, nr. Winchester, Hampshire.

A NOTE FROM NORFOLK AND GUERNSEY. — The season in Norfolk was very late this year. At Hickling during the first week in August, *Phragmataecia castaneae* (Hbn.) was still out in plenty, and a single example of *Mythimna obsoleta* (Hbn.) was noted, the latest I have ever seen them. *Stathmopoda pedella* (L.) was frequent on alder leaves, and a few came to m.v. light. The only migrant noted was a single worn *Celerio lineata* (Esp.) on the night of 3rd/4th August.

I have just commenced trapping in Guernsey. There is ample opportunity for recording here, particularly the micro-lepidoptera which have not been updated since the days of Luff 50 years ago. At this time (mid-October) the commonest Noctuid is *Trigonophora flammea* (Esp.) with up to 25 examples in one night to m.v. It has been recorded on the island, from the local Horticultural Research Station, since 1971, and is undoubtedly resident. English entomologists should be on the look out for it, and it would be interesting to know its status on the adjacent French coast. — Dr. T. N. D. PEET, Le Chene, Forest, Guernsey, C.I.

A FURTHER RECORD OF INFURCITINEA ARGENTIMACULELLA STAINT. (LEP.: TINEIDAE) IN KENT. — On the 9th of July, 1977, whilst on my way to Faversham Creek to search for species of the Gelechiidae, I happened to espy the spire of St. Mary of Charity Parish Church of Faversham. I had seen the spire a number of times, but on this particular occasion wondered whether there were mossy walls in the churchyard, where I might find larvae or imagos of any of the moss-feeding species of the Gelechiidae.

I did find moss and lichen on the walls, but no evidence of the Gelechiidae. What I did find was larvae of *I. argenti-*